

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 415

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, CI

SUBJ: NEW TEACHER ORGANIZATION

ATTN: ARA/LA/O'GRADY PASS TEXT TO AFL/CIO MCLELLAN, AIFLD  
AND IFFTU REP

1. SUMMARY: SEPT 24 PRESS REPORTS FORMATION OF NEW ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF CHILE (COLEGIO DE PROFESORES) WITH MORE THAN 130 THOUSAND MEMBERS. ASSOCIATION WILL BE LED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NINE OFFICERS AND REGIONAL COUNCILS (OF SEVEN EACH) INITIALLY APPOINTED BY GOC AND TO BE ELECTED AFTER THREE YEARS. SUMMARY OF DECREE LAW, SIGNED SEPT 23, MAKES IT EVIDENT THAT ORGANIZATION'S PRIMARY PURPOSE WILL BE TO RAISE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF NATION'S TEACHERS. FACT THAT "COLEGIO" IS TO BE RECOGNIZED UNDER MIN/EDUCATION RATHER THAN MIN/LABOR INDICATES IT WILL NOT FUNCTION AS LABOR UNION. END SUMMARY.

2. EL MERCURIO SEPT 24 DESCRIBED FORMATION OF NEW "COLEGIO DE PROFESORES DE CHILE" UNDER DECREE SIGNED BY GNERAL PINOCHET IN CEREMONY SEPT 23. CLEAR THAT "COLEGIO" WILL HAVE PROFESSIONAL RATHER THAN TRADE-UNION FUNCTIONS. EMPHASIS IS ON "DIGNIFYING THE TEACHER," "PROMOTION OF PROGRESS AND PRESTIGE OF TEACHER," AND MAINTENANCE OF IMPROVEMENT OF "PROFESSIONAL ETHICS." OBLIGATION TO MAINTAIN "VIGILANCE ON  
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RENUMERATION" OF TEACHERS IS MENTIONED, BUT SUMMARY IS SILENT

ON RIGHT OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING OR OTHER MEANS OF IMPROVING SALARIES OR WORKING CONDITIONS.

3. EL MERCURIO CLAIMS "COLEGIO" WILL ENCOMPASS 130 THOUSAND MEMBERS. DECREE PROVIDES THAT ORGANIZATION BE LED BY NINE NATIONAL OFFICERS AND SEVEN OFFICERS IN EACH REGIONAL COUNCIL, ALL OF WHOM WILL BE "ELECTED BY DIRECT SECRET BALLOT" OF MEMBERSHIP "EVERY THREE YEARS." ARTICLE ON TRANSITORY PROVISIONS INDICATES FIRST-TERM OFFICERS WILL BE SELECTED BY MIN/EDUCATION. MEMBERSHIP DUES CHECK-OFF WILL PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

4. COMMENT: DECREE IS FIRST INDICATION OF GOC POLICY TOWARD NATION'S TEACHERS SINCE NATIONAL UNION OF EDUCATION WORKERS - SUTE (SINDICATO UNICO DE TRABAJADORES DE ENSEÑANSA) WAS DISMANTLED SHORTLY AFTER SEPT 11, 1973, COUP. SUTE ONCE WAS CHILE'S LARGEST AND ONE OF MOST POWERFUL UNIONS: IT AND PEASANT CONFEDERATION "RANQUIL" WERE ONLY NATIONAL UNIONS ABOLISHED BY JUNTA.

5. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TEACHERS ORGANIZATION AS A "GREMIO" (GUILD OR PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION) RATHER THAN A TRADITIONAL UNION IS NO SURPRISE. GOC HAS ALREADY INDICATED ITS PREFERENCE FOR POPULAR "PARTICIPATION" IN THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PROCESS OF CHILE'S FUTURE THROUGH CORPORATE INTEREST GROUPS OF THIS TYPE RATHER THAN THROUGH UNIONS, WHICH MAY HAVE INTERNATIONAL LINKS OR MILITANT TENDENCIES.

6. OF INTEREST IS PROVISION FOR ELECTION OF "COLEGIO'S" LEADERSHIP PINPOINTED THREE YEARS FROM FOUNDING. THIS APPEARS TO BE FIRST PUBLIC CONFIRMATION THAT ELECTIONS FOR LEADERS WILL BE ALLOWED IN ANY INSTITUTION. SINCE 1973 COUP, GOC OFFICIALS EITHER HAVE NAMED OFFICERS OF PUBLIC BODIES THEMSELVES OR HAVE CONFIRMED NAMES OFFERED BY ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED. MIN/EDUCATION NAMING OF LEADERS FOR FIRST THREE-YEAR PERIOD, OF COURSE, INDICATES GOC INTENTION TO CONTROL ESTABLISHMENT OF ORGANIZATION. POPPER

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**Subject:** NEW TEACHER ORGANIZATION ATTN: ARA/LA/O'GRADY PASS TEXT TO AFL/CIO MCLELLAN, AIFLD  
**TAGS:** ELAB, CI  
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